

**Administration on Aging
and
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program

Organization Name: Minnesota Board on Aging

Project Title: *Tough Decisions...Clear Choices*

Total Project Period: 9/30/2003 – 9/29/2006

Total Award Amount: \$739,136

Project Contact: Krista Boston, (651)296-0378

Project's Overall Design:

Minnesota will develop strong linkages between county LTC consultation and information, referral and assistance services. The state will: give consumers, their families and other caregivers and professionals access to more effective consumer-friendly robust decision support Internet tools to navigate LTC information for planning and decision-making; provide standardized statewide professional screening, assessment and eligibility using XML data sharing protocols; and establish four Hennepin County (including Minneapolis) resource centers in easy to access locations to provide a full complement of personalized awareness and information, assistance and access functions. Minnesota plans to eventually replicate the Resource Center program throughout the state after the three-year project period. An evaluation consultant will be retained to work with project management and the advisory board to develop and implement an effective measure of the impact of the project on the quality of life of participant consumers.

Target Population:

- End of Year One – Persons 60 and older
- Year Two & Three – Persons 60 and older and individuals with disabilities of all types

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Consumers will choose services tailored to their needs through tools connecting them to streamlined assessment
- Consumers will experience less confusion and enhanced choice and will give information only once
- LTC system services will be managed through a single, coordinated method of intake, assessment and eligibility with quality monitored through centralized data collection and evaluation

- Professionals will also have access to the single, coordinated intake, assessment and eligibility integrated through a robust database
- State and local government will experience improved ability to connect consumers to needed services and supports from publicly and privately funded services

Involvement of Stakeholders and Community Based Organizations:

- Advisory Committee: Quality Design Committee - 50% consumer membership - established in 2001 through Real Choice Systems Change grant. Members include public and private entities, advocacy organizations representing disability and aging. With this project, membership will increase to include AAAs and other agencies representing target populations and technology strategies.
- Partners: Minnesota Board on Aging; DHS Medicaid, Aging and Disability Services Divisions, Hennepin County Human Services Community Health Department, Quality Design Commission, Metropolitan AAA, University of Minnesota Center on Aging and the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living